United Nations S/AC.43/2004/23

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 June 2004
English
Original: French

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1553 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Note verbale dated 18 June 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Committee and has the honour to refer to the note verbale dated 5 May 2004.

The Mission thanks the Chairman of the Committee for having requested Switzerland to provide relevant information on this matter and has the honour to communicate the following:

It should be made clear at the outset that Switzerland has enforced all of the sanctions decided upon by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations since the beginning of the 1990s.

The embargo on arms and any related materiel decided on in paragraph 20 of resolution 1493 (2003) was immediately implemented in Switzerland. Its enforcement is based on the Federal Law on War Materiel of 13 December 1996 and the Federal Law on the Control of Goods, also of 13 December 1996, as well as on their respective implementing regulations.

- Under the Federal Law on War Materiel, the import, export and transit of war materiel as well as trade and brokerage activities are subject to authorization by the Swiss Government. The aim of the Law is to authorize such operations only if they are consistent with Switzerland's international obligations — including the embargo measures decided by the Security Council of the United Nations — and with the principles of Switzerland's foreign policy.
- Under the Federal Law on the Control of Goods, which is aimed at controlling dual-use and specific military goods, permits for specific military goods are denied, for example, where the export of such goods is prohibited by the United Nations.

In conclusion, and on the basis of the two aforementioned Laws, the Swiss Government has not granted any export, import, transit, trade or brokerage permits for arms and related materiel in connection with the Democratic Republic of the Congo for several years.

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